

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BUENOS 05627 272020Z

15

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 HEW-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 /037 W

----- 021157

R 271900Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6876

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 5627

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SCUL, AR

SUBJECT: JUNTA REVIEWS PROPOSAL FOR MASSIVE UNIVERSITY REFORM

1. THE MILITARY JUNTA URGENTLY CALLED IN EDUCATION MINISTER RICARDO BRUERA AUG 25 TO EXPLAIN HIS PROPOSALS FOR FAR-REACHING UNIVERSITY REFORM WHICH HAD APPEARED THE DAY BEFORE IN LA NACION AND WHICH BRUERA APPARENTLY WANTED (AND MAY STILL WANT) TO PUT INTO EFFECT BY DECEMBER 31. THE EDUCATION MINISTRY ITSELF QUICKLY WAFFLED ON THE PROPOSALS WITH A STATEMENT SAYING THEY WERE FROM ONLY ONE OF SEVERAL STUDIES ON THE SUBJECT: THE UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES REFUSED COMMENT.

2. COMPLAINING THAT THE UNIVERSITIES HAVE BEEN "AT THE SERVICE OF SUBVERSION SINCE 1973," THE BRUERA PLAN, DATED AUG 18, URGES THE NECESSITY OF REVERSING THAT PROCESS. ACCORDINGLY, IT PROPOSES MASSIVE REORGANIZATION OF EXISTING UNIVERSITIES, DIRECT STATE CONTROL OF CURRICULUM, ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS AND ACADEMIC REGULATIONS IN ALL INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING, INCLUDING PRIVATE SCHOOLS; SUSPENSION OF UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS IN PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY; AND THE CREATION OF VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS. UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS WOULD BE ENTIRELY RESTRICTED TO FIT "NATIONAL PRIORITIES" AND INSTITUTIONS CONSIDERED "SUPERFLUOUS" OR LACKING IN NECESSARY PERSONNEL AND FUNDS WOULD BE SHUT DOWN. A NATIONAL PLANNING AND COORDINATION SYSTEM FOR HIGHER EDUCATION WOULD BE CREATED TO CENTRALLY REGULATE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND MATRICULATION, WHICH WOULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BUENOS 05627 272020Z

BASED ON NATIONAL AND REGIONAL HUMAN RESOURCES NEEDS. ALL

FIELDS OF STUDY WOULD BE REVIEWED TO ESTABLISH ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND THE DEGREE OF "IDEOLOGICAL INFILTRATION." PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY, "THE COURSES THAT ARE POTENTIALLY THE MOST EXPLOITED FOR IDEOLOGICAL INFILTRATION AND SOCIAL UNREST," WOULD BE PERMITTED AT THE POST-GRADUATE LEVEL ONLY, ACCORDING TO BRUERA'S PLAN.

3. THE DOCUMENT INDICATES THERE SHOULD BE ACADEMIC FREEDOM BUT THAT "PROFESSORS CANNOT BE FREE TO EXPOUND PARTY POLITICAL IDEAS OR PROPAGATE IDEAS OR DOCTRINES CONTRARY TO THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OF OUR NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OR TO THE MORAL AND RELIGIOUS NORMS THAT CONSTITUTE THE ARGENTINE NATIONAL BEING."

4. BRUERA'S PROPOSALS, AS LA OPINION POINTS OUT IN ITS AUG 26 EDITION, DIFFER RADICALLY FROM THE IDEAS EXPRESSED BY THE NEW UNBA RECTOR ALBERTO CONSTANTINI. IN FREQUENT SPEECHES, CONSTANTINI HAS EMPHASIZED FLEXIBILITY, AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE FOR THE NATION'S UNIVERSITIES, WHICH HE HAS SAID ARE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE PLURALITY AND CREATIVITY THAT MARK TRULY GREAT CENTERS OF STUDY. CONSTANTINI HAS PROPOSED MAXIMUM LIBERTY FOR PROFESSORS TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN COURSES AND HOLD THEIR OWN POLITICAL BELIEFS AS LONG AS THE CAMPUS ISN'T USED FOR IDEOLOGICAL PROSELYTIZING. HE HAS ALSO ENCOURAGED AUTONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT OF PRIVATE AND OTHER STATE INSTITUTIONS.

5. COMMENT. THE PUBLICATION OF THE BRUERA DOCUMENT IS OBVIOUSLY AN EMBARRASSMENT FOR THE GOVT, WHICH HAS TRIED THROUGH APPOINTMENT OF MODERATE RECTOR CONSTANTINI (OVER BRUERA'S OBJECTIONS) AND THE RAPID REPLACEMENT OF MILITARY INTERVENTORS WITH CIVILIAN ADMINISTRATORS TO MEND THE TRADITIONAL ILL-WILL BETWEEN THE IMPORTANT ACADEMIC COMMUNITY AND THE MILITARY. BRUERA'S RECOMMENDATIONS FAN THE FEARS OF ACADEMICS THAT THE ALREADY HEAVILY-PURGED UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY MAY IN THE FUTURE BE SUBJECTED TO EVEN MORE STATE CONTROL. IT IS DOUBTFUL, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOVT FAVORS THE DRASTIC REORGANIZATION PROPOSED BY BRUERA (EXCEPT FOR THE NAVY, WHICH, HAVING APPOINTED HIM, PROBABLY CONTRIBUTED HEAVILY TO THE PAPER). THE ARMY, WHICH HAD SERIOUS MISGIVINGS OVER THE BRUERA APPOINTMENT AND UP UNTIL NOW HAD BEEN FULLY SUCCESSFUL IN NEUTRALIZING HIS INFLUENCE IN EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS, IS LIKELY KICKING ITSELF FOR NOT KICKING HIM OUT LONG AGO.

CHAPLIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BUENOS 05627 272020Z

CHAPLIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, UNIVERSITIES, EDUCATIONAL REFORMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BUENOS05627  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760328-0730  
**From:** BUENOS AIRES  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760814/aaaaaljf.tel  
**Line Count:** 112  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12 JUL 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** JUNTA REVIEWS PROPOSAL FOR MASSIVE UNIVERSITY REFORM  
**TAGS:** PINT, SCUL, AR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006